

4 April 67

(2) Memo for D/O/OSA from ASD/R&D/OSA
(IDEA-0262-67), dated 24 March 1967

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c. Modified Kit Lanyard for Automatic or Manual Life Raft Inflation: This simple modification, developed at [] can be incorporated easily if desired. However, there should be further discussion on the advisability of this modification. The continuing effort in the field of life support/escape systems is to simplify operation and reduce the number of steps a pilot must perform for successful ejection and parachute landing. While the hazard of having an inflated raft during descent into forests is recognized along with the desirability of having an uninflated raft for carrying in the case of rapid evasion, there is also the hazard of entering the water with an uninflated raft due to lack of time for pulling a manual lanyard. A major conflict of potential hazards would exist in the case of a carrier launched operational mission over heavily forested land. As an alternative solution to the problem it seems appropriate to develop a water sensing automatic life raft inflation system that would eliminate the pilot option in all cases. Water activated inflators that are safe and reliable are now well within the state of the art. The David Clark Co. is developing, at the direction of D/R&D, an improved life raft that will be incorporated into the [] as soon as it is qualified. Action is now being taken to have David Clark study the inclusion of an automatic inflator on this improved life raft.

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2. Further progress on these items will be reported on as action is taken and development progresses.

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